

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 10-12, 20, 23, and 25-38 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 4, 6-9, 13, and 16-19 are now pending in this application.

Election/Restriction

On page 3 of the Office Action, it is stated that claims 1, 4, 6-11, 13 and 16-19 read on the elected species, and that Claims 12, 20, 23, and 25-28 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species. To advance prosecution, withdrawn claims 12, 20, 23, and 25-38 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim Objections and Rejections

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens in view of Koester et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,260) and Claim 11 was objected to. To advance prosecution and have the allowable claims issue, Applicants hereby cancel claims 10 and 11 without prejudice.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1, 4, 6-9, 13, and 16-19 are allowed. Since all of the claims remaining in the application have been indicated to be allowable, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

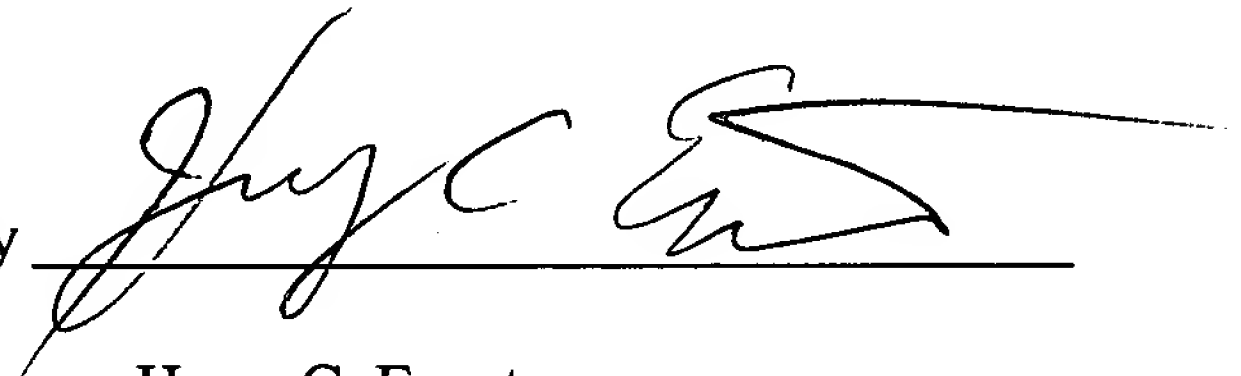
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2350. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2350.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 5, 2003

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry C. Engstrom', written over a horizontal line.

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